Intro to Abnormal Head CT

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Abnormal head CT
An order for reading scans

- Patient, date, type of scan, indication
- Quality of scan
- Cranial and extracranial structures
  - (white spaces)
- Ventricles and cisterns
  - (black spaces)
- Brain parenchyma
  - Hemorrhage
  - Lesions
Describe lesions

- Location
- Dimensions
- Density
- Margins
- Contrast
- Effects
- Associated findings
- Temporal evolution
- Differential diagnosis
Increased CT brain attenuation
- Hemorrhage (acute)
- Calcium
- Contrast
- Metal

Decreased CT brain attenuation
- Ischemia
- Infection
- Neoplasm
- Trauma
- Edema
- Hemorrhage (old)
Abscess of metal producing bacteria – R. Azmeh

Magic bullet – E. Bailey
Black Spaces!
The CSF has leaked out
M. Duvall

Look for the presence
of the absence – M. Painschab
The End